

June 26, 2003

Public Notice for 401 Certification

**Culvert Replacement Project, Highway 128, PM 14.04
WDID No. 1B01031WNME
Mendocino County**

On April 26, 2001 the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requesting Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Culvert Replacement Project on Highway 128, PM 14.04. Staff at the Regional Water Board issued a request for additional information dated June 21, 2001. The requested additional information was received in our office on June 5, 2003. The application covers disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the removal and replacement of the existing headwall and realigning the culvert so that the inlet is directly facing oncoming streamflow. The culvert diverts Soda Creek, a tributary to the Navarro River, under the roadway. The proposed project will cause 0.002 acres of disturbance associated with the Navarro Hydrologic Area 113.50.

The proposed project will be located on Highway 128, near the town of Navarro in Mendocino County, California. The purpose of the project is to replace the culvert to prevent flooding and erosion of the road fill. The culvert will be 2700 mm in diameter, and will be partially buried to allow for a continuous natural stream bottom. Construction is slated to take place in Summer 2004.

There are no listed species or habitat for listed species present on the site. To minimize impacts to the riparian habitat, work on the culvert will be conducted during the late summer when the streambed is dry and no equipment will be operated in the streambed. The applicant has proposed mitigation for vegetation removal in the form of hand-seeding all exposed surfaces with native plants. In addition, willow cuttings will be planted wherever trees are removed.

The applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement and the United States Army Corps of Engineers for coverage under Nationwide Permit # 3, both of which applications are pending. The applicant has also obtained a Categorical Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Mona Dougherty at (707) 570-3761 or by email at dougma@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov.